

A

## REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Thursday, June 7. 1705.

**I**N all my Arguments for, and Exhortations to Peace, I have hitherto brought you nothing to Move you to this Blessed healing Temper, but what has had its Foundation at our own Doors.

All the Illustrations, Precedents, and Similies, are born at Home, and the Subject is fruitful enough.

But since the Gentlemen that stand in need of this Exhortation, are not too Easily Convinc'd, and the Copious Subject is yet Capable of something never said before, and which, it is hoped, may be yet more Convincing, and if possible, more Moving than any thing said before, I crave leave to put our Countrymen upon looking a little into our Affairs Abroad, and see what is the Voice of Nations, and the prospect of things in this Case.

The Campaign is now begun, the Armies are in the Field; and if we may believe our Foreign Accounts, are facing one another: The Nation is every Hour Expecting the News of a Bloody and Desperate Battle.

'Tis true, we are Desirous to come to Blows with the Enemy, and some Folks, that

know as little what Fighting is as other People, are Eager to have them at it.

But I would willingly ask such People, if they know what is at Stake? And tho' I am in hopes, and think there is good Ground for it, that if we have a fair Day of it, we shall come off well; yet he that Considers on the other Hand the Chance of War, that knows the Vigilancy, as well as Valour of the Enemy; that reflects upon their yet growing Advantages, and Superiour Strength in *Italy*, in *Flanders*, and upon the *Rhine*, that knows if our Troops, on the *Moselle*, should meet with the least Baulk, or Disappointment; nay, that if they should but be prevented Fighting, and the Campaign on the *Moselle*, have but the least Interruption, we shall be Losers every where else.

On the other hand, tho' still I hope 'tis not probable, yet as all Men must allow it possible, that we should receive some Check upon the *Moselle*, that our Numerous Brave Army there, either by our own Mistakes, the Enemies Extraordinary Conduct, or any other Chance of War, should have a Foil,

as who knows what Dark Providence may yet wait us behind the Curtain of Futurity ; Do not all these Contingencies Preach Peace to us ?

'Tis hard, Gentlemen of the High-Church, that we should always stand in need of the Whips of our Enemies, to lash us into a good Understanding one with another ; I have observed, that you, Gentlemen, above all our several sorts of Complainers in *England*, have been most forward to cry out of Foreigners, tho' some People have done so only because they were not the right sort of Foreigners ; but these are, I hope, none of your Clais.

Look back, Gentlemen, upon the State of the Case ; the way to keep out Foreigners, the way to secure us against the Invasion of Foreigners, can never be to Quarrel, Bite, and Devour one another at Home.

From whence can we Expect Peace and Settlement, if not at Home ? Will nothing but the Increasing of our Enemies, open our Eyes to our Danger ? Must our Soldiers be Sacrifices to our Safety ? Must they be Beaten and Slain by Heaps in the Field, to make us see our Safety ?

This is a sad Necessity, and tho' indeed *England* has been Censur'd for the like sort of Blindness in former Ages, and we have been famous for breaking one another's Peace, till a Powerful Threatning Enemy makes us rouse our Reason, and set our Faculties to Work ; yet as we stand upon the Shoulders of our Father's Experience, as we pretend the Ages Encrease in Knowledge, and that we are Wiser than our Ancestors, methinks we might see it beforehand.

However since such is the present Evil of the Times, such the prepossession of Parties, such the Malignancy of Faction, and of the present unnatural Temper, that nothing but some Publick Mischief, seems possible to Unite us.

I shall therefore present, in the Ensuing Paper, the sad Prospect of our Affairs ; if (which God Almighty in Mercy, even to this very High Church Party, Avert) the Confederate Armies should be Beaten, and the *French* Power once more bid fair to Over-run *Europe*.

I shall Entreat the Readers to form all the sad Consequences in their Imaginations, as lively and as clear, as if that Melancholy Circumstance should happen ; and then let any Man tell me, if we should not at once lay down our Foolish Heats, and joyn heartily in Mutual Defence.

The sincere Desire of this Paper is, that we might do it now, without such a severe Discipline, without being Driven to it by the Horrid Experiment, and without having our own Folly to reflect upon us, in our Distress.

Afflictions Unite Enemies, shall they not Unite Friends ? I would not call these Gentlemen Enemies ; however mistaken, and prepossess'd, they would not be Enemies in such a Case as this ; Why should they be so now ?

In prosecuting this Subject, I shall only perswade them to Reflect, to look with open Eyes upon the Case, that if possible, the Great End I sincerely aim at, may be Obtained ; I mean the Publick Peace of *Protestants*, one among another.

They that Quarrel at this Work, Envy, Malign, and Rail at its Author, either because of his Subject, or Weak Performance, are so far Guilty of Obstrueting the Nations Peace ; since by any means to Contribute to the Publick Settlement, and to allay the Unnatural Feuds of our Unhappy Country, is a Work so really meriting the Blessing of every Party, that no Man, how Unworthy an Instrument soever, should be Discourag'd in it.

The attempting this by Raillery, Falshity, Calumny, and Reproach, is *Villainous* in its Design, and *Scandalous* in its Method ; and must obtain for its Reward the just Abhorrence of all Wise Men, that have the least Concern for their Native Country.

Such Persons, let their Pretences be what they will, their Ends are *sinister* and *Secret* ; and as they set themselves against, no me, but the Work I am, I hope, sincerely Engag'd in, they of Course Embroil themselves with every Good Man that wishes Tranquility to the Church of Christ, and this Nation, in which, we Trust, his own Right Hand has Planted it.

From



From me they merit Pity and Contempt, this for their Folly, and that their Malice; and as to their Slanders, Forgeries, and ill Language, they Revert upon themselves.

*As Engineers, that ill support a Mine,  
Sink in the Ruine of their own Design.*

My humble Request to all that read this Paper, is, That abstracting the Argument from the Meanness, and most Despicable Character of its Author, they would reverence Truth, and pay a due Homage to Reason, and the moving perswading Power of just Arguing, let it come from who it will.

If I tell you the Truth, if I perswade to your real Interest, if I warn you against Threatning Impending Dangers, remember the *Jews* to the Blind Man, *Thou wast altogether born in Sin, and dost thou Teach us?* And yet all the Man said was true.

If you are all undone without Peace, if it is the only Harbour the Ship of State has left to run, for to Weather the Rocks and Dangers before her; remember this Contemptible Pilot gave you loud Notices to steer that steady Course, which alone can bring you safe in.

In vain are all the Empty Cavils at this Paper, or at its most Unworthy Author, **SPEAK CONSCIENCE!** In the Breast of every *English* Man; nay, even in the Breasts of the Enemies to this Proposal; I freely appeal to, the Conscience and Reason of the most Furious *High Church*, *Jacobite*, or *Tacker* in the Nation; abstract the Person from his Party, abstract the *English* Man from the *Jacobite*, and let him speak his Genuine Unbiass'd Sense, and tell me; Is not a General Union among us, the way Effectually to fore-close your Party, to fix the Church in its present Establishment? Is it not the only way to ruin your Cause, and post-pone all the hopes of any such thing as a **RE-REVOLUTION?**

In short, if we Unite, are not our *Enemies Undone* as certainly, as if we Divide, *we are Undone?*

For God's sake, Gentlemen, let us Unite, for nothing else can save us; let us not Divide, for nothing else can hurt us.

If we Unite, our Enemies are undone, I make no Question; and I believe, it will be easily Granted me, That had the Confederacy been perfectly United, this War had Ended many Years ago: Nothing has given it the happy Turn of its present Conduct, like the New Face of Union, which seems to be upon our Affairs: And what a Melancholy Account could I give of the Divisions of Council that has render'd Abortive the Noble Undertakings of Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy* in *Italy*; where had he been supported by the United Concert of the Imperial Ministry, and Management, 'tis apparent he had not Drove the *French* out of *Italy* only, but perhaps have spread the Imperial Eagles on the Banks of the *Rhoshne*, and prevented the Mischiefs and Massacres of the *Cevennois*.

If our Councils, our Measures, and our Executions at Home, had been United, and the Miserable Contention of Parties, had not affected all our Measures; the many well Contriv'd Designs on *France*, *Spain*, and the *West-Indies*, both in the former War, and in this, had not been rendered Abortive, and the Blood and Money thrown away, as Water spilt upon the Ground.

**T**HE Scurrility of a certain Author, against this Paper, which (as I am told) is the Subject of a Libel of this Day, tho' I have not seen it, and resolve not to See, or Read it; or any more of his Writing, I say nothing to; but as I promise, tell him another Story.

" A Gentleman going too near an *Ass*  
" that stood in his Way, receiv'd a Scurvy  
" Kick from him, which tho' it did him  
" no Harm at all, yet a little Surpriz'd  
" him; But why don't you Pay him for  
" it, (*says a Fellow that stood by?*) *Because*  
" *he is a Beast*, (*says the Gentleman*) he  
" uses me no otherwise than he would  
" the King; so Gentlemen, *this Beast uses*  
" *me no worse than he did King William*;  
" *and who am I, that I should Expect better*  
" *Treatment than my Master?*


**Whereas**



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